

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/380001/P10186

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph 2 with the following amended paragraph:

One type of network management tool is the discovery agent. These agents gather information from devices in the network. This information may be used to evaluate network performance and possible faults, as well as provide information needed to reconfigure the network. A network manager may wish to incorporate new discovery agents into its existing set as they become available or as the network expands and evolves. Also, as new network devices are created and incorporated into the network, new ways to discover the new devices may be necessary. However, incorporating the new agents into the network management system may require reconfiguration and modification of the new agent and/or the system. Furthermore, the new agents may gather information already provided by existing agents, thereby generating redundant data that adds to the complexity of processing the discovery information.

Please replace the paragraph 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The discovery agents 106 collect information from targeted network devices 110 during a discovery operation (described below), for example, by polling devices in a certain range of addresses or in a particular subnet. Different discovery agents

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/380001/P10186

may perform discovery operations using different techniques, and may collect different types of data. Discovery agents may be on the same computer as the discovery manager, or may reside on a remote machine that uses a local module to communicate with the discovery manager. The discovery agents used in the system may use a number of different management protocols including, for example, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), Remote Monitoring (RMON), Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP), and other existing standardized and propriety management protocols, as well as management protocols that may become available in the future. Compliant devices may have a corresponding agent. For example, SNMP-compliant device includes an SNMP agent.